

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service  
Santa Fe National Forest  
Española Ranger District



For Immediate Release

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## Prescribed Burning to Begin in Santa Fe Watershed and Near Los Alamos

(Santa Fe, NM)—Two prescribed burning projects: Santa Fe Watershed and the Valle II, will begin within the next few weeks, weather permitting.

Piles of thinned material within the *Santa Fe Municipal Watershed* will be burned beginning Tuesday, October 12, 2004. The Forest Service has thinned approximately 3,000 acres of dense forest in the Santa Fe Watershed since early 2002. Burning piles will rid the area of the wood and branches that could fuel a wildfire. Pile burning will continue throughout the winter as weather allows or until all piles have been treated.

The Santa Fe Watershed Project was designed to reduce dense small-diameter tree stands in the watershed that pose a wildfire threat to both the watershed and the city of Santa Fe. As the primary source of water for Santa Fe, the watershed provides 40 percent of water to the city. In order to maintain the natural health of the watershed, 7,270 acres of small-diameter trees will be thinned over the next seven to ten years.

Smoke from the Santa Fe Watershed Burn will be visible from the city of Santa Fe and surrounding areas.

The *Valle II Prescribed Burn* near Los Alamos, south of Camp May Road, will begin the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> and should be completed within a 3 to 4 day period. The broadcast burn (an area burn, different from pile burning), approximately 300-acres is being conducted to reduce fuel loading and improve timber stands. The burn will also provide protection to the wildland urban interface, the community of Los Alamos.

Smoke from the Valle II prescribed burn will be visible from Los Alamos and surrounding communities.

For additional information on the prescribed burns, call Dave Isackson, (505) 753-7331 or Dolores Maese at (505) 438-7877. For additional information on programs to reduce wildfire threat to communities, visit <http://www.firewise.org/communities>.

